THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D.SWAMI): (a) to (d) A Union Minister is an important functionary appointed by the President in terms of article 75 of the Constitution of India.

The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers' Act, 1952 and the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Rules, 1957 do not carry a provision for grant of leave to the Union Ministers implying that they are on duty usually at all times. Need for maintenance of any record whether a Union Minister is attending his office regularly or not is, therefore,not considered necessary. Besides, Union Ministers also have offices at their residences from where they discharge their official obligations as Union Ministers.

Meeting of NSAB with NSC

2918. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Advisory Board met the National Security Council in October, 2002 for the second time in nearly five years; and

(b) if so, what were the decisions taken at the meet?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) provides inputs to the Government on a varity of security related issues from time to time. The reports, asessments and policy recommendations prepared by the NSAB are sent to the national Security Advisor on a regular basis. These are then fed to the National Security Council (NSC)/Cabinet Committee on Security. An interaction between the NSC and the NSAB chaired by the Prime Minister was organized on October 16, 2002. Earlier, the Prime Minister had taken a meeting of the NSAB on June 8, 1999, which was also attended by the members of the National Security Council. In the meeting held on October 16, 2002, the NSAB reviewed the national security situation and *inter-alia* issues arising from the continuing cross-border terrorism, the recent elections in Pakistan and successful conclusion of elections in Jammu and Kashmir were analysed. The NSAB made a series of recommendations as to how India should deal with the current situation. It would, however, not be in the national interest to divulge specific details in this regard.